



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
www.ohs.delaware.gov

To: Corporate Partners

From: Alexis Williams, Corporate Partners Outreach Coordinator

Date: August 1, 2019

Re: August Impairment Traffic Safety News Memo



In Delaware in 2018, there were 1,052 DUI-related crashes. This number has decreased from 2017, where Delaware saw 1,077 DUI-related crashes.

The Basics of Alcohol Impairment:

- Drivers are considered to be alcohol-impaired when their blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) are .08 g/dL or higher.
- Alcohol is quickly absorbed and can be measured within 30-70 minutes after a person has had a drink.
- A typical drink equals a half-ounce of alcohol. This is the amount of alcohol found in *one shot of distilled spirits, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or one 12-ounce beer.*
- BACs are affected by a variety of factors including the number of drinks consumed, how fast the drinks are consumed, your gender, your weight, and the food in your stomach.
- Drivers with a BAC of .08 are *4 times more likely to crash* than drivers with a BAC of zero. Drivers with a BAC of .15 are *at least 12 times more likely to crash* than drivers with a BAC of zero.

Driving Under the Influence:

- In 2018 in Delaware, the most common days and times for DUI-related crashes were Friday from 8 p.m. to Saturday at midnight and Saturday from 11 p.m. to Sunday at 3 a.m.
- The most popular age range for drivers in DUI-related crashes in 2018 in Delaware was 20-44, encompassing 67% of crashes.
- According to NHTSA, in 2017 there were 10,874 fatalities in crashes involving drivers with BACs of at least .08 g/dL. On average, 1 alcohol-impaired-driving-fatality occurred every 48 minutes that year.
- The average known BAC in arrests for DUIs in Delaware in 2018 was 0.153 g/dL. For DUI crashes, the average was 0.180 g/dL.
- Driving under the influence of drugs can also impair your driving abilities. You can be arrested for DUI if you are taking a prescription drug.



What You Can Do:

If you are at an event where you intend to drink, do not plan to drive.

1. Coordinate a safe way to get home before traveling and never drive after drinking.
2. If traveling with others, assign someone to be the "Designated Driver."
3. Use a taxi, call an Uber/Lyft, call a sober friend/family member, or use public transportation.
 - o For a list of options for ridesharing, go to: <https://www.arrivealivede.com/Drive-Sober/Safe-Rides#wilmington>.
 - o For a list of current bus schedules and locations, go to: <https://dartfirststate.com/>.
4. Always wear your seatbelt.

Safety Spotlight: Delaware DRE Program:

"A DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) is a police officer who is trained to recognize impairment in drivers who are under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. When a police officer in Delaware stops a motorist that they believe to be impaired, that officer will conduct basic sobriety tests with the driver. If the officer believes that the driver is impaired by a substance other than alcohol, they will call for a DRE. An available DRE will then respond to the location where the driver is being held and will perform the 12-step DRE evaluation.

DRE candidates undergo over 100 hours of intensive classroom instruction and formal training, including a basic overview of field sobriety tests, human physiology and drug pharmacology, and an internship period where the DRE conducts actual drug evaluations under the tutelage of a certified DRE instructor. DRE training is recognized as one of the most challenging and academically intensive training courses that a law enforcement officer can attend. DRE students are required to take multiple tests, score a perfect 100% on the final knowledge exam and memorize over 90 indicators of drug impairment specific to each drug category."

- Lieutenant Andrew Rubin, Newark PD, Delaware DRE State Coordinator

Corporate Partners:

Our upcoming newsletter priority areas are:

- September: Child Passenger Safety
- October: Pedestrian
- November/December: Safe Family Holiday + Winter Driving Tips

Please reach out to Alexis Williams at alexis.williams@delaware.gov if your organization is interested in submitting a newsletter contribution!

Take this month's mailing of posters and flyers, and display them in areas for employees and customers to see and learn from. For more information on impairment, visit www.arrivealivede.com/Drive-Sober.

**Happy
to
Help!**

For more information and tools, please visit [arrivealivede.com](https://www.arrivealivede.com), call our office at (302) 744.2740, or call Alexis at (302) 608-3048.

Please continue to share our safety messaging on your social media platform and email alexis.williams@delaware.gov with any updated information about your organization. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @HighwaySafetyDE.